

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10650 051130Z

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SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF 1974-5 FULBRIGHT-HAYS LECTURER

1. SUMMARY. PROFESSOR PAUL SAETTLER ARRIVED BEIRUT EVENING 30 AUGUST AS EXPECTED. DEPARTED BEIRUT UNEXPECTEDLY MORNING 2 SEPTEMBER AS RESULT "CULTURE SHOCK" WITHOUT CONSULTING MISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. PAUL SAETTLER, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY IN SACRAMENTO, ARRIVED EVENING AUGUST 30 AS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN YEAR AS FULBRIGHT-HAYS LECTURER AT LEBANESE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. SAETTLER MET AT AIRPORT BY SENIOR LEBANESE EMPLOYEE (PROGRAM ADVISOR FOR EXCHANGES), ESCORTED TO HOTEL, AND GIVEN WELCOME KIT INCLUDING NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF A/PAO AND ACAO IN CASE ANY PROBLEM AROSE OVER LONG WEEKEND. ACAO VISITED HOTEL AFTERNOON AUGUST 31, LEARNED THAT SAETTLER HAD GONE TO BAALBECK FOR EVENING CONCERT, AND LEFT NOTE OF WELCOME. ACAO ALSO CALLED HOTEL SEPTEMBER 2 AND (MIS)INFORMED THAT SAETTLER "NOT IN."

3. LONG LETTER FROM SAETTLER, WRITTEN SEPTEMBER 1 AND HAND DELIVERED TO RECEPTIONIST AT JFK AMERICAN CENTER AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 3 (FIRST DAY OF BUSINESS AFTER LONG WEEKEND), ANNOUNCED AND EXPLAINED HIS DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON SEPTEMBER 2. SAETTLER BEGAN AS FOLLOWS: "I SUPPOSE I AM SUFFERING FROM WHAT IS KNOWN AS 'CULTURE SHOCK'. IN ANY EVENT, I HAVE BEEN VERY DEPRESSED ABOUT MY STATE OF BEING THE LAST TWO DAYS. I MUST
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10650 051130Z

ADMIT I HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE VIEW BECAUSE OF MY EXPERIENCES."

HE THEN CITEED (A) HIS INABILITY TO FIND FURNISHED APARTMENT MEETING HIS STANDARDS OF QUALITY AT REASONABLE PRICE; (B) HIS DISCOVERY THAT HE WOULD BE WORKING IN AREA A GREAT DISTANCE

FROM AUB, THAT (ALLEGEDLY) NO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN TAXIS EXISTS, AND THAT (ALLEGEDLY) AREA IS DANGEROUS FOR AMERICANS EVEN IN DAYTIME; (C) HIS SHOCK AT COST OF LIVING IN BEIRUT. SAETTLER CONTINUED: "AS IF WHAT I HAVE ALREADY RELATED IS NOT SUFFICIENT, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM MY WIFE IN THE U.S.A. INFORMING ME TODAY THAT SHE NEEDS IMMEDIATE SURGERY. WHEN I RECEIVED THIS WORD, I MADE UP MY MIND THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ME TO RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY. THUS, I REGRET TO TELL YOU THAT I AM LEAVING TOMORROW....I WILL WRITE A LETTER TO WASHINGTON, D. C. A FEW DAYS AFTER I RETURN TO EXPLAIN MY REASONS FOR LEAVING....I AM SORRY THAT IT DID NOT WORK OUT FOR ME, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY ALTERNATIVES UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES."

4. MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM HOTEL THAT SAETTLER HAD TOLD HOTEL STAFF AS EARLY AS MORNING OF AUGUST 31, LESS THAN 12 HOURS AFTER ARRIVAL, THAT HE INTENDED TO LEAVE BEIRUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NEITHER SENIOR LEBANESE EMPLOYEE BY WHOM HE WAS MET NOR AMERICAN OFFICERS WHOSE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS HE WAS GIVEN WERE INFORMED OF HIS SUDDEN NEGATIVE REACTION, WHICH WAS NOT APPARENT TO SENIOR LEBANESE EMPLOYEE WHO MET HIM. MISSION FINDS IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SAETTLER'S ACTIONS AND REACTIONS ARE THOSE OF MATURE ADULT. HE DID NOT EVEN WAIT TO GO THROUGH STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFINGS AND PROCEDURES BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION.

5. FYI, DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT SAETTLER WAS OBLIGED TO RETURN HOME BECAUSE OF WIFE'S CRITICAL MEDICAL PROBLEM.

6. CU MAY WISH TO CONTACT SAETTLER BY TELEPHONE (916-487-9594) TO DISCUSS ABOVE AND SEE WHETHER SAETTLER IS, AS IT NOW SEEMS, TOTAL LOSS FOR 1974-5 ACADEMIC YEAR. CU MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS ABOVE WITH CAO HEDITSIAN CURRENTLY ON LEAVE IN U. S. AND AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15 AT 401-803-9040. GODLEY

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